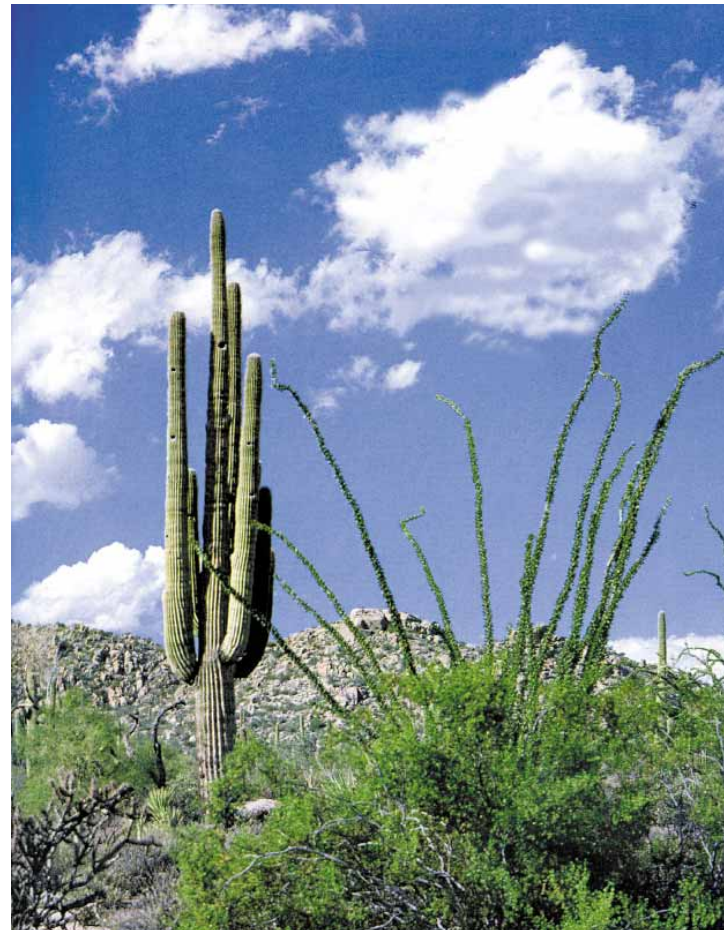




"Nature is not a place to visit, it is a home." - Gary Snyder





Intent

V. Access Areas Location Analysis



Based on extensive fieldwork and input from user groups, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission identified generalized locations for Preserve access areas and a list of potential amenities for each type of access area in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Access Area Report. The descriptions and list of amenities in this section for each access area, (this list may change as more detailed site analysis is performed), build on the information contained in the Access Area Report. The site maps identify a smaller geographic area within the broader access area location to conduct further site analysis and site planning studies for the placement of amenities. These areas are indicated in red on the site maps. The Preserve Gateway site is not included in this analysis, pending further study.

Sunrise *

Minor Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Mountain Bikers

Amenities

- Up to 30 parking spaces
- Displays
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Signage
- Shade ramada

Typology

- Decomposed granite
- Foothill Palo Verde
- Saguaro, Ocotillo, Cholla
- Bursage, Brittlebush, Jojoba

Opportunities

- Available infrastructure
- Mid-density vegetation
- Location previously established through negotiation w/developer

Constraints

- Nearby homes

Via Linda *

Minor Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian

Amenities

- Up to 24 parking spaces
- Horse trailer parking
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Water trough
- Signage
- Shade ramada

Typology

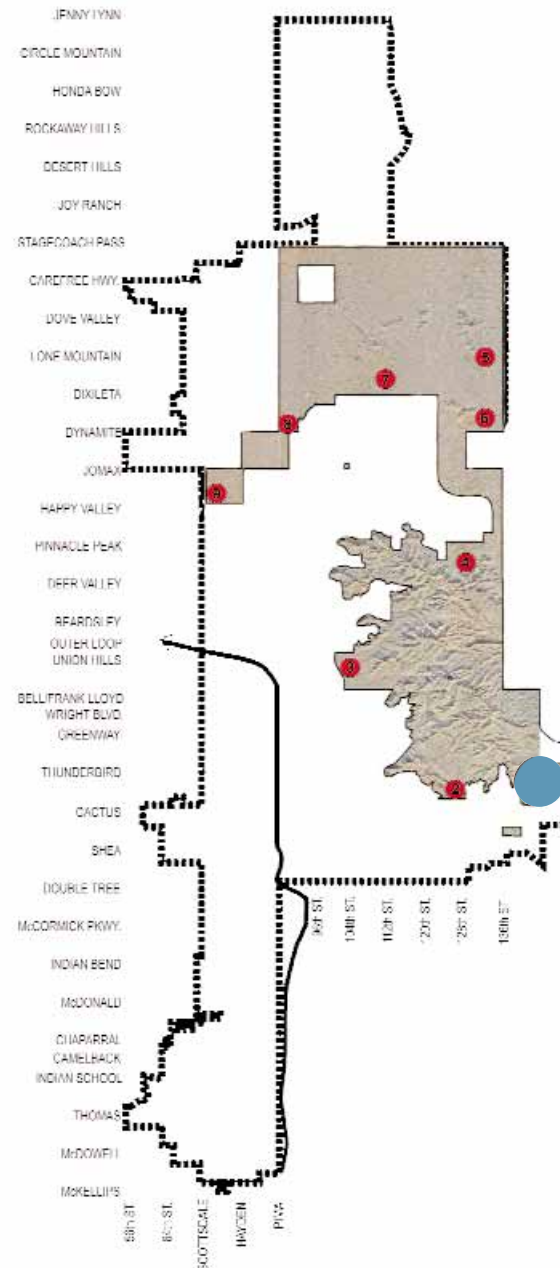
- Decomposed granite
- Foothill Palo Verde, Ironwood
- Saguaro, Ocotillo, Cholla, Barrel
- Bursage, Jojoba

Opportunities

- Available infrastructure
- No nearby homes
- Dramatic adjacent arroyo
- Location previously established through negotiation w/developer

Constraints

- Close to existing road
- Limited site area



Sunrise



Via Linda

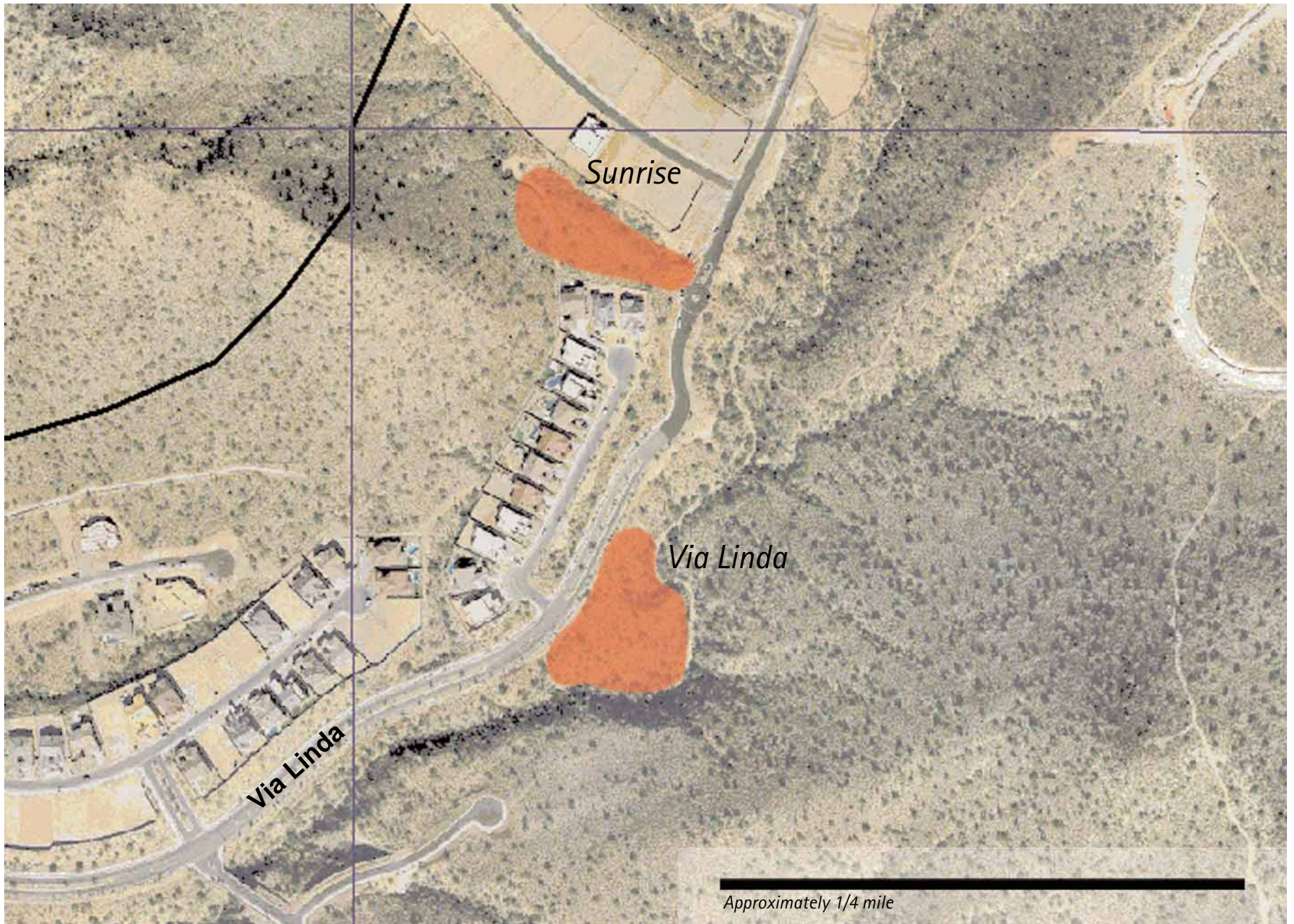
Rationale:

Sunrise trailhead location previously established through negotiation with developer. Situated in area of relatively level terrain above adjacent wash and below steeper slopes to west.

Via Linda location situated on relatively level terrain adjacent to existing road to accommodate equestrian trailer parking with good access.

* Note:

This access area is comprised of two separate sites.



Lost Dog Wash

Major Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers

Amenities

- Up to 300 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Storage
- Restrooms
- Educational gathering area
- Picnic areas
- Shade ramadas
- Interpretive displays
- Drinking fountains (dog friendly)
- Water trough
- Signage

Typology

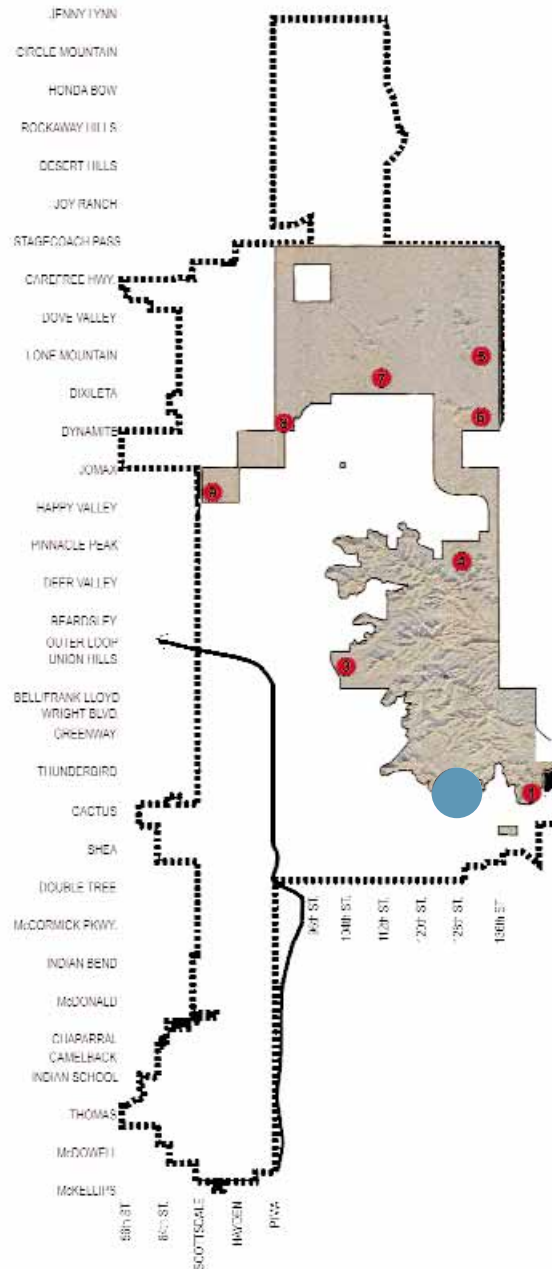
- Desert pavement
- Foothill Palo Verde, Ironwood, Mesquite
- Saguaro, Ocotillo, Cholla, Barrel
- Bursage, Brittlebush, Jojoba, Creosote

Opportunities

- Excellent urban views
- Educational partnership w/adjacent schools
- Well defined wash
- Adequate land area
- Relatively flat
- Remote

Constraints

- No infrastructure
- Large existing washes



Rationale:

Site is remote to provide adequate buffer from neighborhoods. Terrain is relatively flat and access to site can utilize existing road scar without crossing major washes.



North McDowell

Major Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers
- Rock climbers

Amenities

- Up to 300 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Storage
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas
- Shade ramadas
- Gathering areas
- Interpretive displays
- Drinking fountains (dog friendly)
- Water troughs
- Signage

Typology

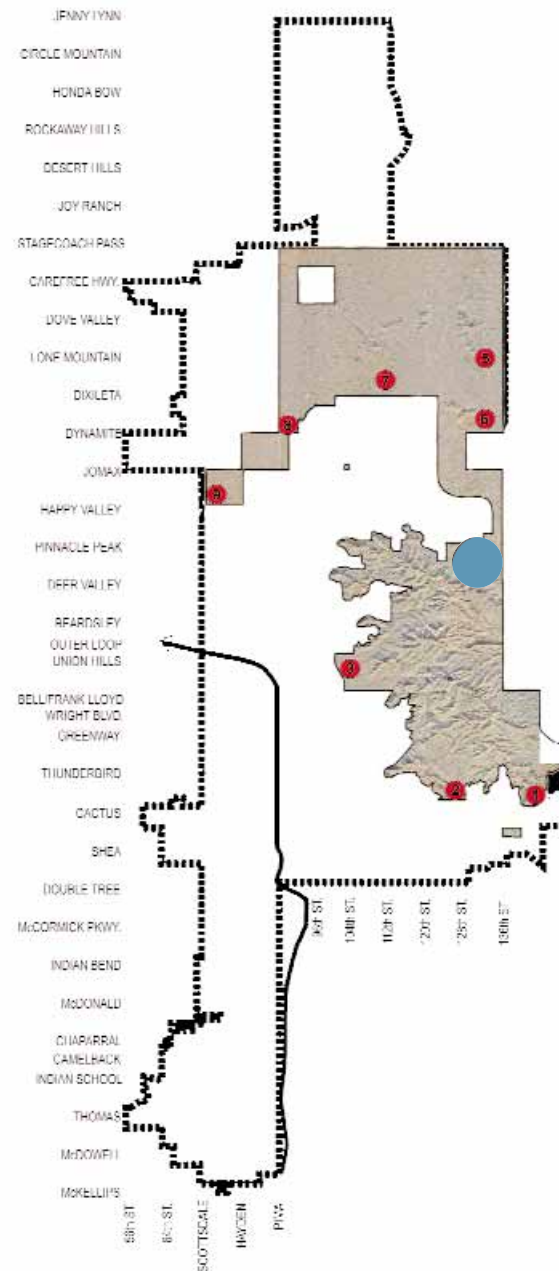
- Rugged topography
- Boulder outcroppings
- Decomposed granite
- Foothill Palo Verde
- Barrel, Ocotillo, Cholla
- Bursage, Jojoba

Opportunities

- Views
- Connection to McDowell Mountain County Park
- Isolated, no neighbors

Constraints

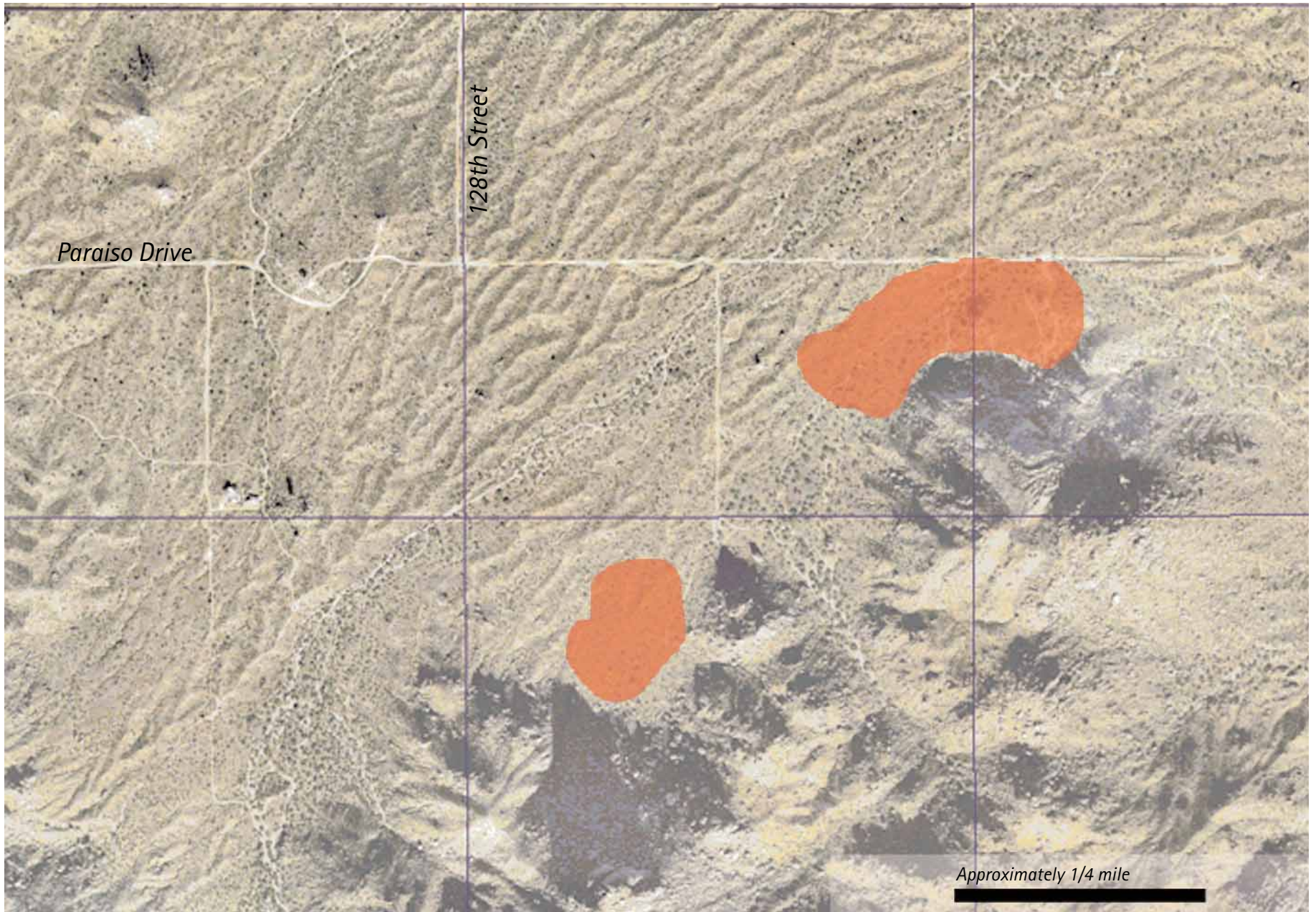
- Rugged / steep topography
- Lack of infrastructure
- Difficult access
- Disparate user groups



Rationale:

Relatively large main access area location to allow amenities to be integrated into terrain. Smaller secondary study sites to accommodate primitive parking access for climbers (shown in green).

Terrain and number of washes will require parking areas to be situated in pods.



Little Granite Mountain

Major Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers
- Rock climbers

Amenities

- Up to 300 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Storage
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas
- Shade ramadas
- Interpretive displays
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Water troughs
- Signage

Typology

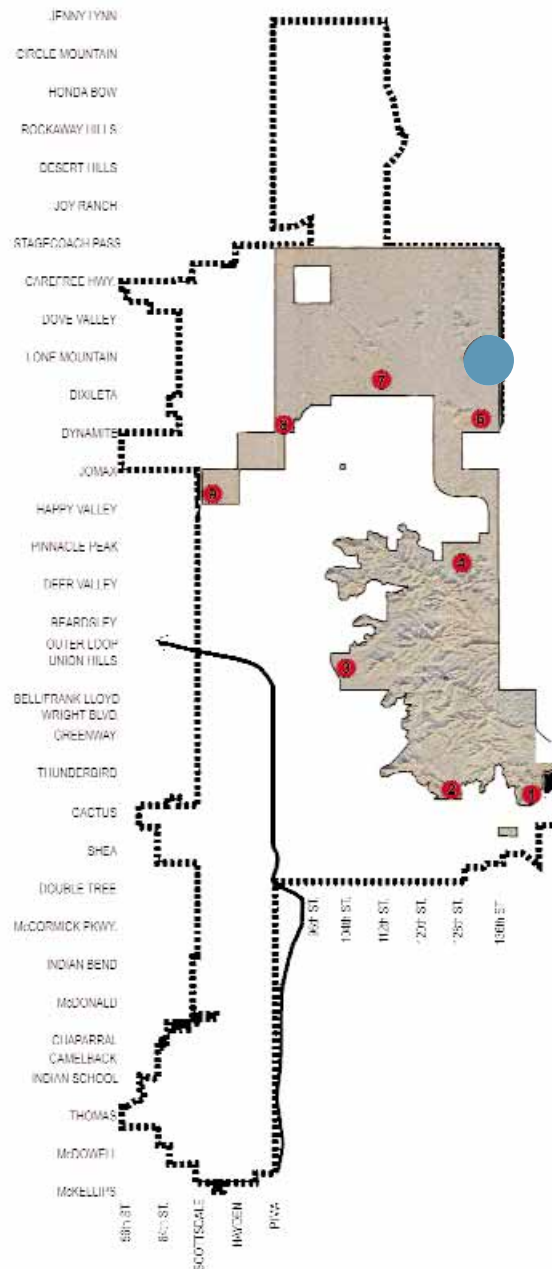
- Decomposed granite
- Foothill Palo Verde, Hackberry, Mesquite, Crucifixion Thorn
- Saguaro, Ocotillo, Cholla
- Jojoba, Brittlebush, Creosote

Opportunities

- No nearby neighbors
- Excellent views
- Existing maintenance road could provide access
- Connection to Tonto National Forest

Constraints

- Transmission lines
- Lack of infrastructure and utilities

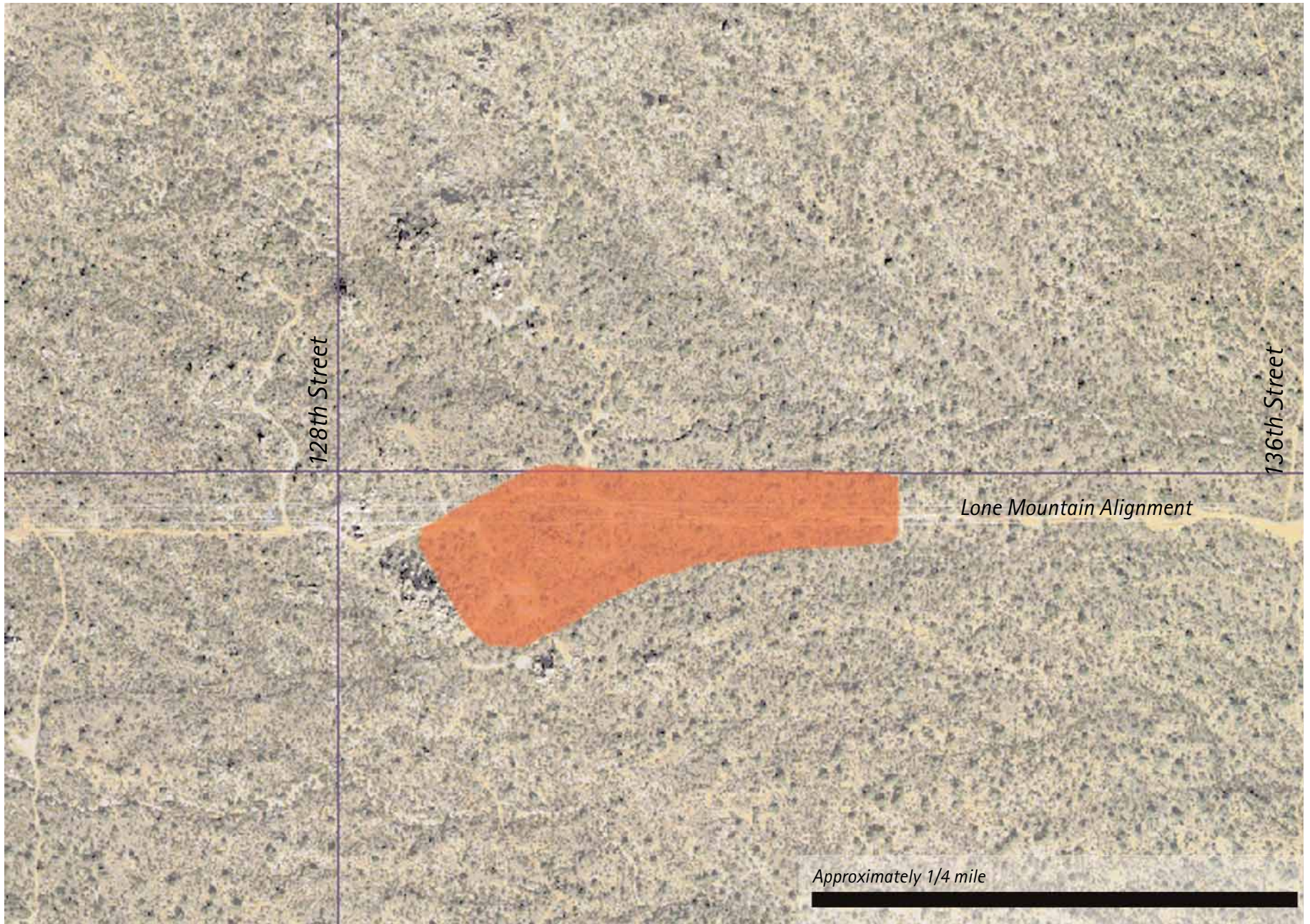


Rationale:

Location utilizes existing transmission line access road and existing disturbed site to provide access to Preserve interior. Configuration allows parking to be spread out and integrated into terrain, utilizing existing access road and disturbed areas.

Note:

This area may provide an opportunity for jeep tour operators (as an interpretive stop/location), should the public feel this activity is appropriate.



Fraesfield Mountain

Minor Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers

Amenities

- Up to 100 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Storage
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas
- Interpretive displays
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Water troughs
- Signage
- Shade ramadas

Typology

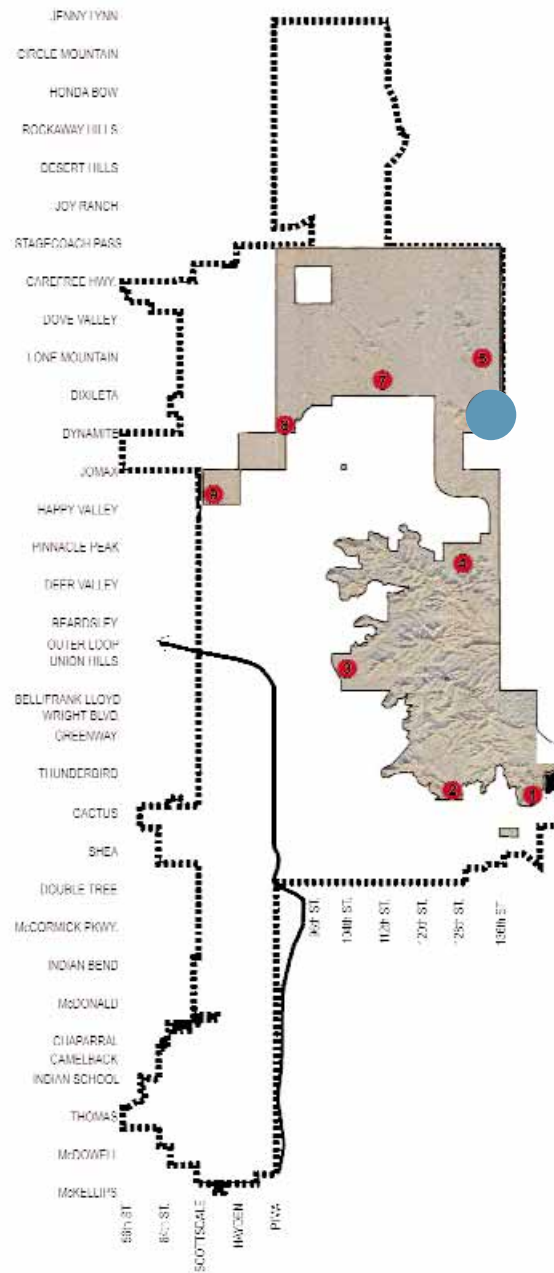
- Fire damage
- Decomposed granite
- Foothill Palo Verde, Mesquite
- Saguaro, Yucca

Opportunities

- Previously disturbed site
- No nearby neighbors

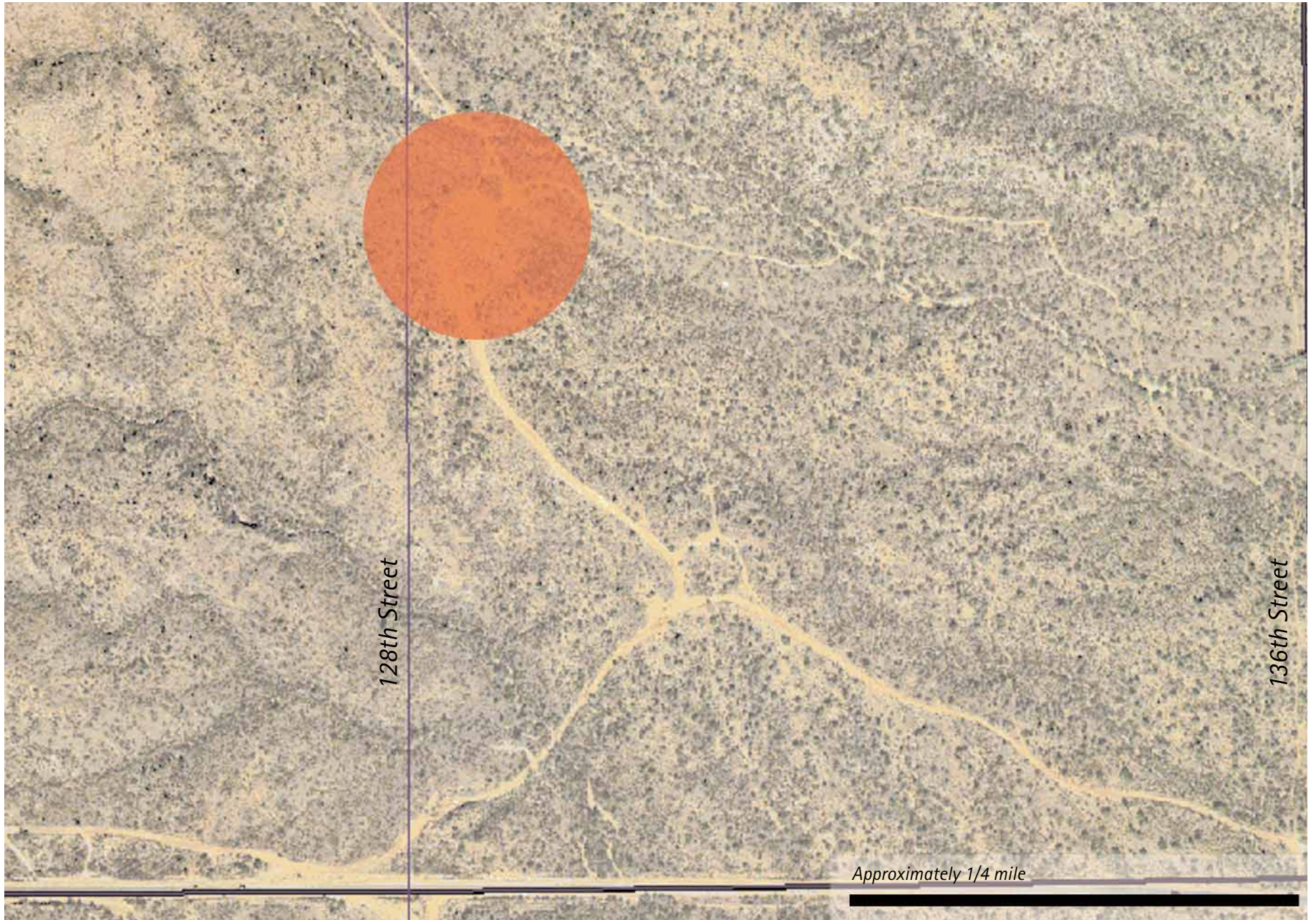
Constraints

- Lack of infrastructure and utilities
- Fire damaged landscape



Rationale:

Location utilizes existing jeep trail for access and existing disturbed area for amenities. Well screened from Dynamite Boulevard. Terrain relatively flat.



Alma School

Minor Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers

Amenities

- Up to 100 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Storage
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas
- Interpretive displays
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Water troughs
- Signage
- Shade ramadas

Typology

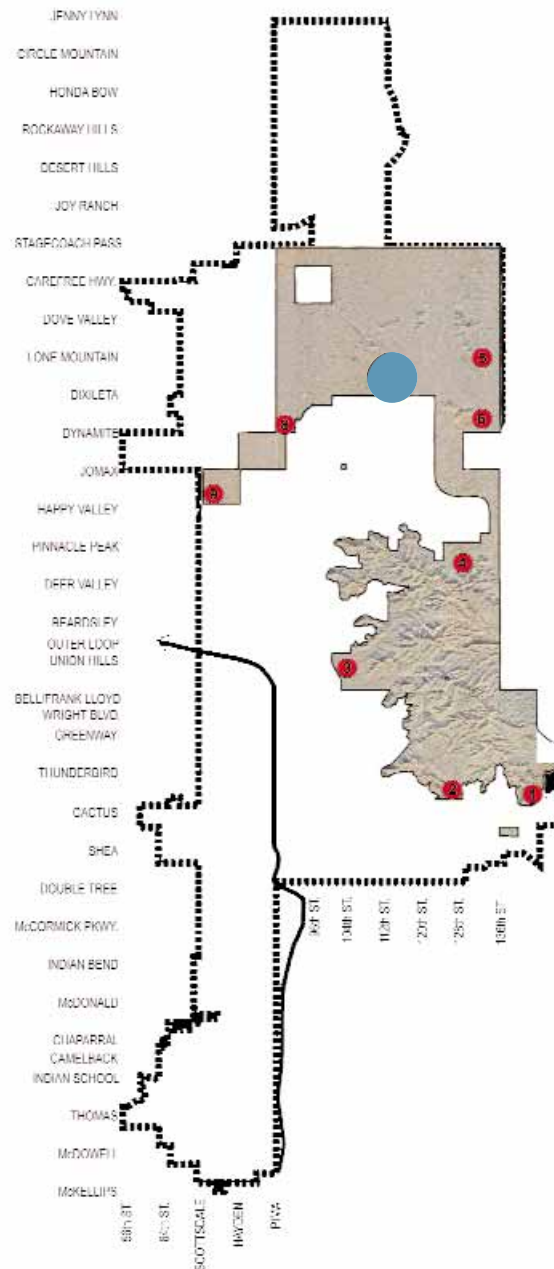
- Fire damaged
- Decomposed granite
- Foothill Palo Verde, Mesquite
- Saguaro, Ocotillo, Yucca, Barrel

Opportunities

- Existing access road
- Landforms allow site to be tucked behind hill
- Panoramic view for individuals not able to hike

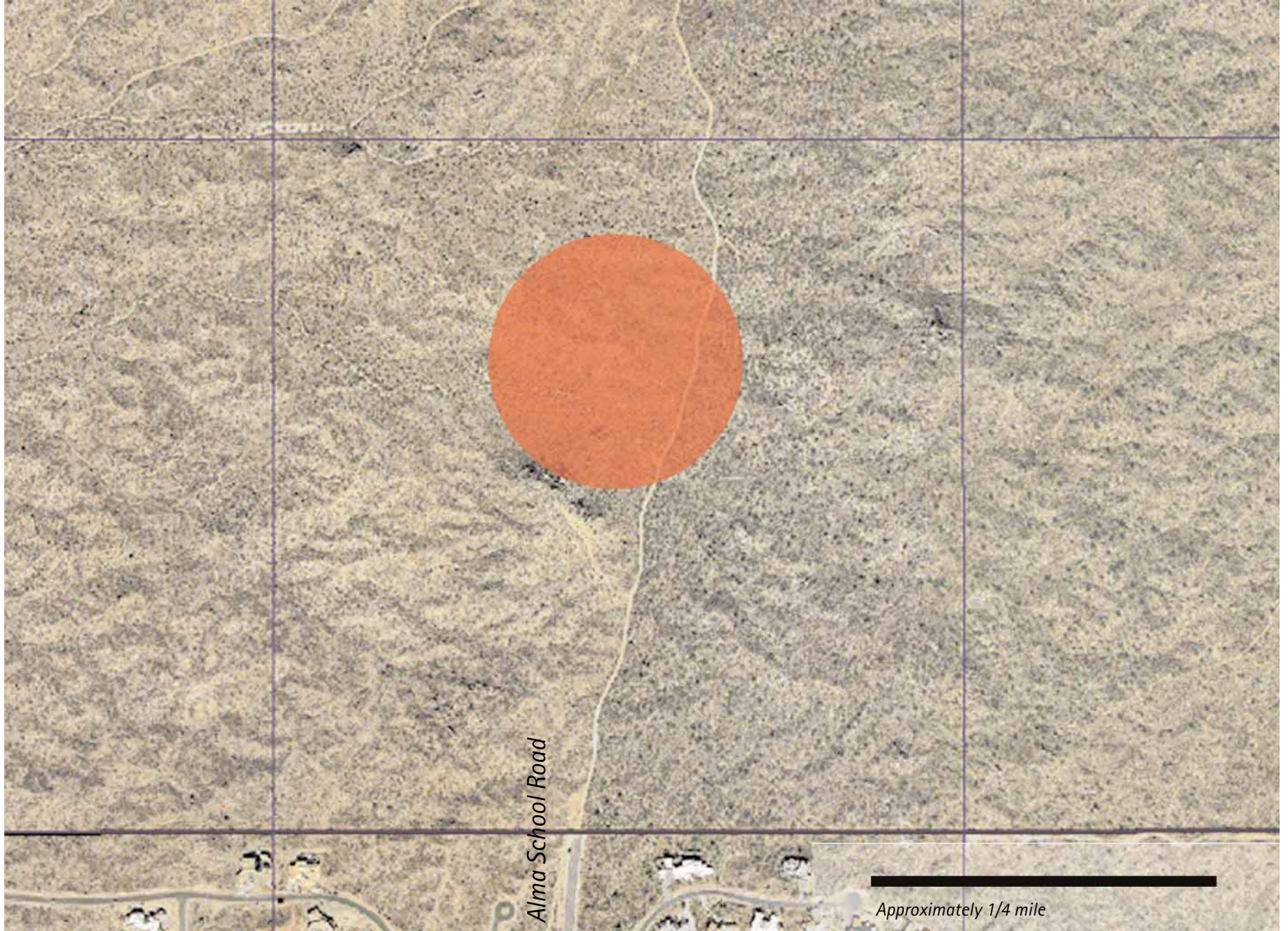
Constraints

- Lack of infrastructure and utilities other than access road



Rationale:

Terrain allows amenities to be located behind hill and well hidden from view. Location relatively flat with excellent views to west, north and east. Existing jeep trail can provide for site access.



Pima - Dynamite

Major Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers

Amenities

- Up to 300 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Storage
- Restrooms
- Picnic areas
- Shade ramadas
- Interpretive displays
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Water troughs
- Signage

Typology

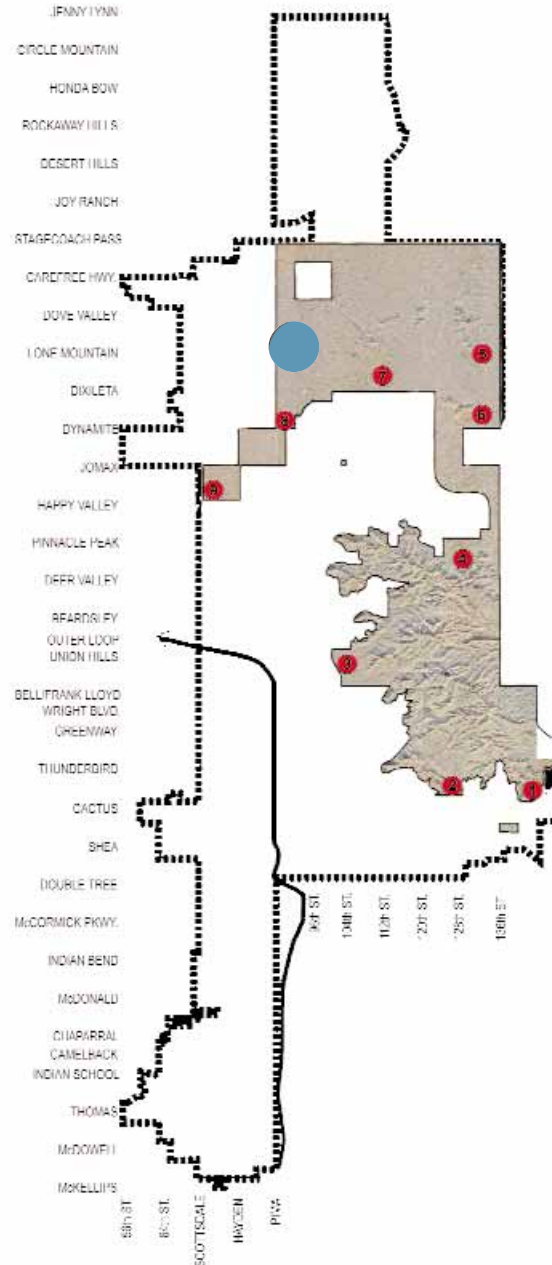
- Decomposed granite
- Moderate slope
- Palo Verde, Ironwood
- Saguaro, Ocotillo, Cholla, Barrel
- Bursage, Jojoba

Opportunities

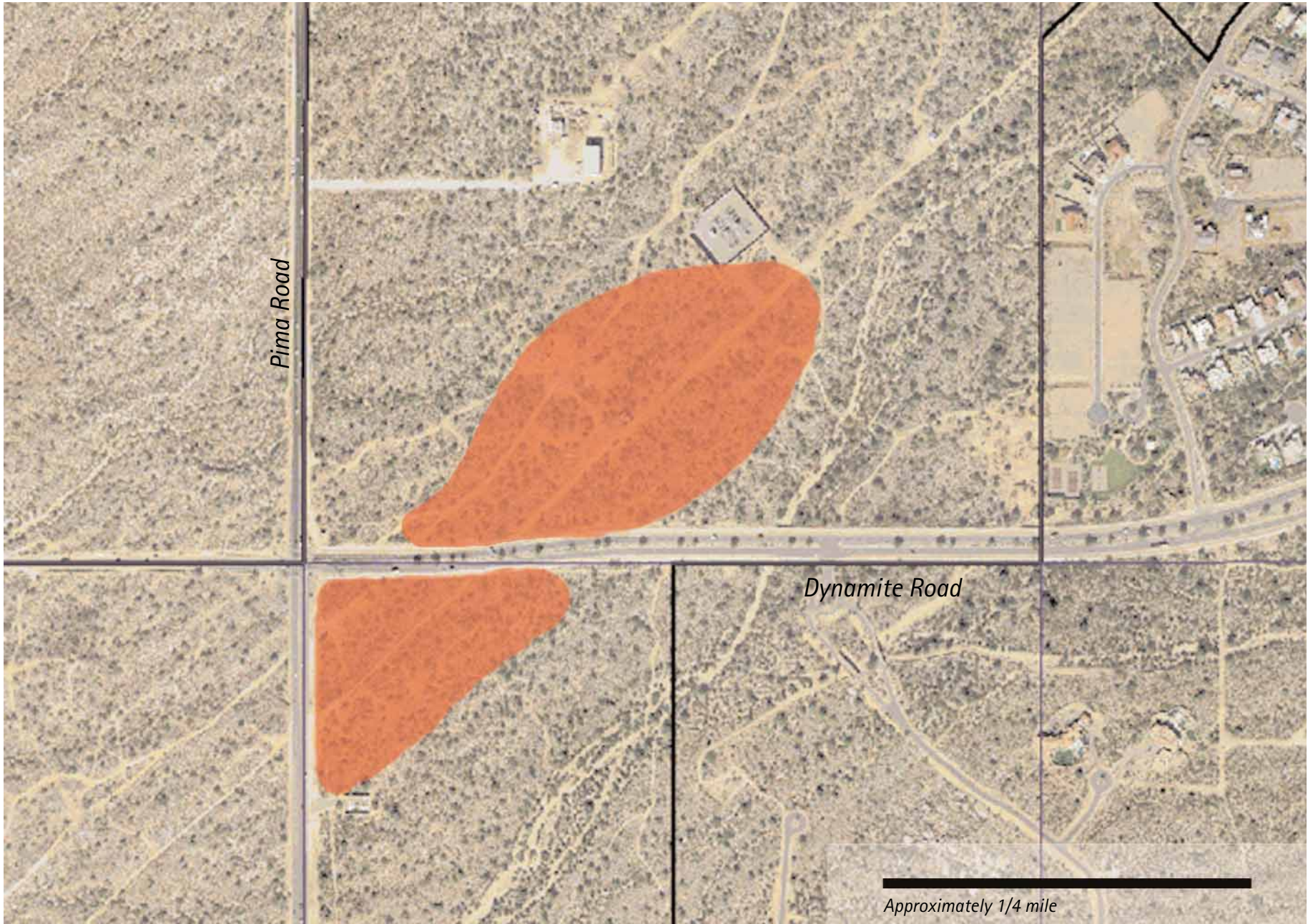
- Previously disturbed area
- Convenient vehicular access
- No adjacent neighbors
- Signalized intersection
- Potential for overflow parking

Constraints

- Transmission lines



Rationale:
Previously disturbed areas with good access to existing roads and infrastructure. Relatively flat terrain.



Happy Valley - Scottsdale Rd.

Minor Community Access

Primary Users

- Hikers
- Equestrian
- Mountain bikers

Amenities

- Up to 100 parking spaces
- Horse trailers
- Picnic areas
- Shade ramadas
- Displays
- Drinking fountain (dog friendly)
- Water troughs
- Signage

Typology

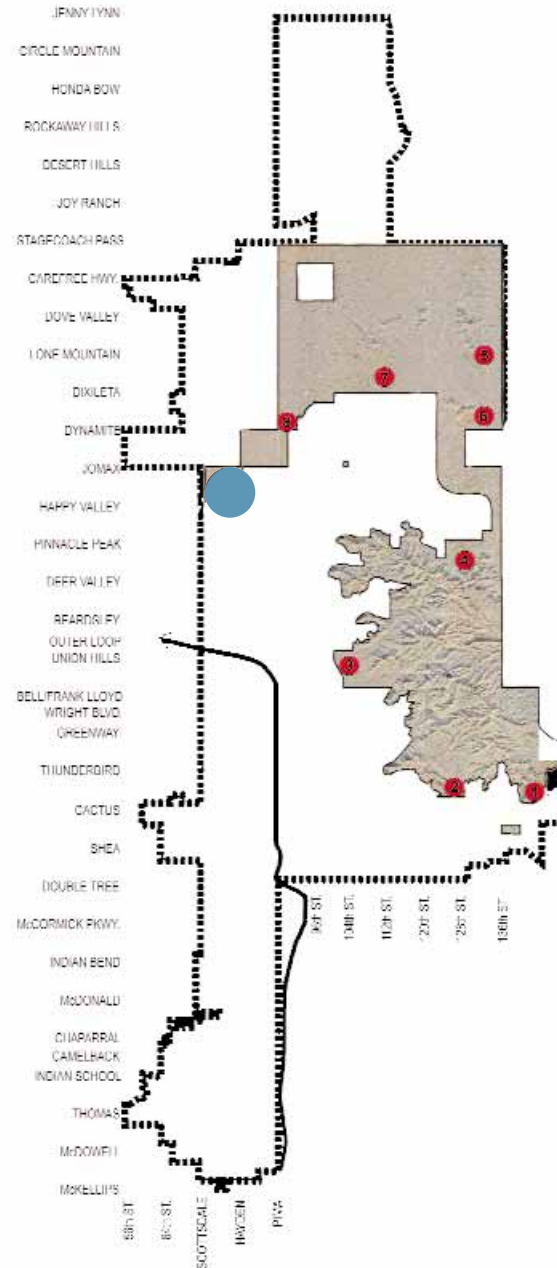
- Flat topography
- Fine decomposed granite / sand
- Blue Palo Verde, Ironwood, Mesquite
- Saguaro, Barrel
- Bursage, Creosote

Opportunities

- Good access
- No adjacent neighbors
- Flat topography
- Connection to City of Phoenix's proposed trail system
- Scenic corridor/tourist interest

Constraints

- Heavy adjacent traffic
- Transmission lines



Rationale:

Previously disturbed area with convenient access to existing roads and infrastructure. Flat terrain. Connection to City of Phoenix's proposed trail system and scenic corridor.

